## SHINING TIME STATION

"PUPPET SCRIPT #1"

BY

SEAN KELLY

From characters and storylines created by Britt Allcroft and Rick Siggelkow

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL BY CRAIG MARIN

TORONTO DRAFT SEPTEMBER 21, 1992

SCENE 1
(ESTABLISHING SHOT OF JUKEBOX. WE DISSOLVE THROUGH TO PUPPET BAND. TITO COUNTS THEM DOWN.)

(SONG: "MOMMA DON'T ALLOW")

# SCENE 2 (AUDITORIUM)

(STAGE DRAPES CLOSE ON LAST FRAME OF SONG. WE HEAR A CROWD CHEERING. PULL BACK TO REVEAL AUDITORIUM. THERE IS A RAISED STAGE WITH A SPEAKERS PODIUM WITH MICROPHONE. CONTINUE PULLING BACK TO REVEAL OUR WALTER CRONKITE PUPPET (CALLED "ANCHOR MAN"). HE HOLDS A MIKE AND SPEAKS IN REVERENTIAL TONES. HE ADDRESSES THE CAMERA.)

#### ANCHOR MAN:

We interrupt your regularly scheduled tape to bring you an extra home video. We are gathered here today to heap gobs of praise upon one of the industries all time greats. The man who was once called "The Cheapest Man In Show Business". The...just one moment, please... (HE GETS A SIGNAL FROM HIS EAR-THINGIE). We're just about ready to begin. And here to start the festivities is your MC--Ladies and Gentlepuppets please say hello to--Mr.Fabulous!!!

(SPOTLIGHT FINDS MR.FABULOUS
--ACTUALLY SAMMY DAVIS, JR.--AND HE
DANCES HIS WAY ACROSS THE STAGE AND
OVER TO THE PODIUM. APPROPRIATE
VEGAS-STYLE SCHMALTZ MUSIC UNDER
HIS DANCE.

## SCENE 2 (CONT'D)

MC:

Peace, love and plastics, man! HaHaHa. I'm your MC--and that doesn't stand for Major CooCoo! HaHaHa. (a beat, then seriously). Now dig. We all know that behind every great band there's a truly great manager, nagging them on. A smoothmeister like the genius we are honored to honor today. A cat who needs no introduction. The legendary monster of the music industry-the manager AND DISCOVERER of the too wonderful Shining Time Station Juke Box Band. The one. The only. My main man...Jay-Jay Silvers!!!

(TESTIMONIAL-STYLE MUSIC IN CUT TO: ELEVATOR RISES, PEANUT GALLERY GOES NUTS("YAY","HURRAH," ETC.)
CUT TO: EMCEE BOWING, WAVING, GESTURING AS J.J. SAUNTERS TO THE PODIUM. THEY EMBRACE TO THE APPLAUSE. AS IF SURPRISED, EMBRACE AGAIN.EMCEE EXITS. ELEVATOR DESCENDS.)

JJ:

Thank you, Mr.Fabulous.
And thank you, my
friends.No.No. You're too
kind. Gracias, amigos.
Merci, mes amis. Please!
Enough!

#### SCENE 2 (CONT'D)

(PAN CR TO SHOW ROY GEVULT HOLDING UP A SIGN THAT SAYS "KEEP ON CLAPPING" WITH A DRAWING OF HANDS CLAPPING. ROY IS A NERDY LOOKING PUPPET IN COVERALLS, WHO STANDS NEAR A HEAP OF LOW-TECH AUDIO/VISUAL EQUIPMENT, HELD TOGETHER WITH RUBBERBANDS, GUM, AND SOME STRATEGICALLY PLACED BANDAIDS.

(CUT TO: MEDIUM CU OF JJ, WHO GIVES THE CAMERA AN OLIVER HARDY LOOK. THEN, TO ROY...)

JJ:

Hey! Roy! That's enough!

(CUT TO: ROY, WHO HOLDS UP A CARD THAT SAYS "SHHHHHHHHH", AND SURE ENOUGH, THE CHEERS STOP-ON-A-DIME.
CUT TO: JJ AT PODIUM.)

JJ:

That was my unable assistant, Roy Gevult.

(SUDDENLY, LOTS OF APPLAUSE, WHISTLES, ECT. CAMERA FOLLOWS JJ AS HE WALKS OVER TO ROY WHO IS HOLDING UP THE "KEEP CLAPPING" SIGN AGAIN. JJ STARES AT ROY. WHEN ROY NOTICES JJ, ROY THROWS THE SIGN ONTO THE FLOOR AND STOMPS ON IT. HE SMILES AT HIS BOSS. JJ, SATISFIED, WALKS BACK TO THE PODIUM AND THE CAMERA FOLLOWS.)

JJ:

My friends, rather than give a formal speech to you all today about how the band came together, I said to myself "Self", said, "Why don't you just get up there and speak from your heart."

#### SCENE 2 (CONT'D)

(CUT TO: AUDIENCE 2S. SKYLAR THE INNOCENT BOY AND HACKETT THE CANTANKEROUS PENGUIN.)

#### SKYLAR:

He's gonna speak from his heart?

HACKETT:

Well, at least it'll be a short speech.

(CUT TO: JJ AT THE PODIUM.)

JJ:

Words can not express how I truly feel. I just want you to...Stop. Hey. Roy. What's that?

(CUT TO: ROY WHO IS HOLDING UP A STOP SIGN. HE REALIZES HIS ERROR, AND FLIPS THE SIGN AROUND, WHERE WE CAN SEE THE WRITING. HE GIVES JJ THE ALL CLEAR TO CONTINUE SIGNAL.)

JJ:

Ahem. As I was saying.

proud to be honored

by you all, my close
personal friends, members
of my favorite
organization, the very
famous...

(CUT TO: TECKY FUMBLING WITH CARDS.)

(CUT TO: PODIUM. JJ CARRIES ON.)

JJ:

... And so, without further ado--roll tape! I said ROLL TAPE!

SCENE 2 (CONT'D)
(CUT TO: ROY, NODDING, SNAPS
AWAKE. SEIZES A LARGE ROLL OF
GAFFERS TAPE, ROLLS IT.)

(CUT TO: ROLL OD TAPE ROLLING PAST PODIUM IN FRONT OF JJ)

JJ:

No, no, Roy! Not the sticky tape. The video tape!

(CURTAIN PARTS (OR RISES) AND SCREEN APPEARS. ON IT:)

(SONG: "DESPERADO")

# SCENE 4 (AUDITORIUM)

(AUDIENCE GALLERY CHEERING AND APPLAUDING--TECKY LIKEWISE.)

(CUT TO: PODIUM. JJ BEHAVES AS IF THE APPLAUSE IS FOR HIM. CURTAIN CLOSES BEHIND HIM.)

JJ:

The band. The Juke Box Band. My band. They love me. It's a shame they couldn't be here in person today—they're still working in the jukebox over at Shining Time Station.

(INTERCUT: DISAPPOINTED AUDIENCE SIGHING "AWWWW!". CUT TO: ROY HOLDING AN "AWWWWW!' CARD. PERHAPS A SAD FACE WITH TEARS.)

But permit me to introduce them to you. First on the piano, Tito. (PAUSE) That's a cue, Roy! Drop the screen!

(CUT TO: TECKY, FRANTIC. HITS A BUTTON ON HIS EQUIPMENT.)

(CUT TO: PODIUM. A SCREEN UNFOLDS VERY QUICKLY BEHIND JJ WITH A CRASH. IT MISSES HIM JUST A BEAT. ON THE SCREEN APPEARS A STILL "PUBLICITY" PHOTO OF TITO AUTOGRAPHED. JJ STANDS IN FRONT OF IT, POINTING PROUDLY.)

JJ:

Yes, Tito. The Maestro with the Mostest, as I have dubbed him and keyboard <u>artiste</u> extraordinare. I'll never forget my first unforgettable encounter with Tito. It was, in a word, unforgettable.

### SCENE 5 ("LITTLE TITO SET.)

(LITTLE TITO IS PRACTICING PIANO--BADLY.)

JJ(V/O):

I was walking down the street in a small town when I heard something that was music to my ears. It was, in fact, music.

(LITTLE TITO GIVES UP.)

LIL' TITO:

Piano, why are you so hard to play?

PIANO:

Maybe 'cause I'm made of wood! Ha! Ha!

Piano, that's not funny!

PIANO:

Okay, okay. But if I told you once, I told you twice. If playin' the pie-ana were easy everyone-would -do-it!

LIL':

Maybe I should just sing, instead.

PIANO:

With your voice, you could use an <u>electric</u> piano.

LIL':

Why's that?

### SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

PIANO:

'Cause it will drown out your singing! Ha! Ha! Ha!

LIL':

What's wrong with my voice?

PIANO:

Nothing. If you like car alarms.

LIL':

I thought you were my friend. You're hurting my feelings and making me feel sad.

PIANO:

Good.

LIL':

Good! What's good about feeling sad?

PIANO:

Don't just feel sad, you gotta try to play sad. You want to make music, you got to play what you feel.

(LIL' TITO SITS DOWN AT THE PIANO AND PLAYS AND SINGS A BLUES NUMBER.)

LIL':

Hey! I don't feel so SAD anymore!

PIANO:

Now that was happening music, my man. It had feeling.

9/21/9

## SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

(JJ POKES HIS HEAD IN THE WINDOW.)

JJ:

Hey fella...(LOOKS AROUND)...Uhhh, who ya talkin' to?

LIL:

Uh, nobody.

JJ:

You can sure tickle those eighty eights.

LIL':

Excuse me?

JJ:

Kid, the name is Silvers.
JJ Silvers. Ever heard
of me?

LIL':

No, sir.

JJ:

Of course you did. I just told you. I'm JJ Silvers, and I know an up and coming genius when I hear one. A couple more years of playing, kid, and you'll be great.

LIL':

But I...

JJ:

No buts about it. If you keep practicing. And if you ever decide to turn professional, let me know. Here's my card!

### SCENE 5 (CONT'D

(JJ POPS OUT OF THE WINDOW.)

(READING CARD)

LIL':

"JJ SILVERS- Manager To The Stars!" Wow! Do you think he knows any stars???

PIANO:

Probably not. But he knows YOU, and that's a start!

LIL':

Ho. Ho. Know what, Piano? You're my best friend.

PIANO:

And don't you forget it! Now play what you feel!

(LIL' TITO PLAYS AND SINGS A HAPPY SONG.)

LIL'

Ohhhh Bay-beeee. I'm so ba-ad I'm good..."

SCENE 6
(AUDITORIUM)

(JJ STANDS ON PODIUM IN FRONT OF SCREEN WITH TITO PIC. APPLAUSE.)

JJ:

Now next but not least, there's Grace. Grace the bass. Amazing Grace, as I cleverly call her... Slide! Slide, Roy, I said let's see the slide!

(JJ'S EYES WIDEN AS...ROY RUNS AND "SLIDES" BASERUNNER STYLE INTO PODIUM, KNOCKING DOWN JJ AS PAPERS, ETC. FLY EVERYWHERE.
CUT TO:)

AUDIENCE(O.S.):

Safe! Out! He was safe! Out by a mile!

(AUDIENCE WEARS BASEBALL CAPS-CARRIES BANNERS, ETC.)

(CUT TO: PODIUM. JJ STRUGGLES TO HIS FEET, AND TURNS TO THE DIMWITTED ROY.

JJ:

No, Roy. Not that kind of slide. The picture, Roy, the picture.

A STILL OF GRACE IS NOW SEEN ON SCREEN. JJ IN FRONT OF IT, POINTS.)

## SCENE 6 (CONT'D)

JJ:

Thank you, Roy.

## (TO AUDIENCE)

Give him time, folks. He's still learning the ropes. So where was I? Oh, yes. When I first heard Grace, I was on the road. And there she was. On the car radio. Well, not so much on the radio... as in the radio..and you might say I turned her on...

SCENE 7 (CAR RADIO INTERIOR)

(GRACE AND THE TUBES DO " NEW RIVER TRAIN?" (AT END OF SONG GRACE TURNS TO THE BAND OF TUBES AND COILS, AND EXTENDS HER HAND.)

GRACE:

Nice work, Guys.

(SHE GETS A SHOCK OF SPARKS FROM THE FIRST, A REAL JOLT FROM ANOTHER, WHILE ALL THE REST REACH OUT AND ZAP HER.)

> Ow. Ouch! Hey, cool it! What I wouldn't do to play in a real band instead of this glorified fuse box...

(JJ ENTERS RIGHT ON CUE .)

JJ:

Your wish is my demand, my sultry songbird. Your talents are wasted here in this Boondoggle of tubes and circuits. Permit me to take you away from all this...just sign here, m'dear....

(JJ UNROLLS INCREDIBLY LONG CONTRACT.)

# SCENE 8 (AUDITORIUM)

(APPLAUSE AT PODIUM. JJ AND SCREEN ON WHICH WE SEE A NEW PUBLICITY STILL---GRACE AND TITO.)

#### TITO:

So now I'd signed up
Grace and Tito. I tried
to promote them as a
singing team. Like Sonny
and Cher, Simon and
Garfunkle, Ma and Donna.
But I knew the act needed
something more.
Something new and
different. Then I heard
about a dancer. Her name
was Waltzing Matilda...

(ON A SCREEN BEHIND JJ FLASHES A PICTURE OF A BALLERINA DOLL. IT BEGINS TO TWIRL. WE HEAR "WALTZING MATILDA" BEING PLAYED. PULL BACK TO REVEAL DOLL IS ON TOP OF MUSIC BOX.)

## JJ(V/O)

I saw right away that Matilda wasn't right for me. There was something ...mechanical about her. But I like what I heard, so I took a look back stage.

SCENE 9 (MUSIC BOX INTERIOR)

(THE BOYS DO "NEW SONG"--"WALTZING MATILDA".)

(AT SONG'S END, JJ ENTERS.)

JJ:

Hi, boys. Silver's the name, finding talents the game. You boys are good.

TEX:

Thank you, stranger.

REX:

We think so too.

JJ:

Too good to be playing in a dump like this!

REX:

You can say that again, partner. The hours are downright rotten.

TEX:

And the pay is pretty poor, too.

REX:

Worst of all, we do all the work, and the ballerina girl on top gets all the credit.

JJ:

Boys, boys, boys. I'm gonna make stars outa you two boys. Everybody's gonna know your names. By the way, boys what is your name?

TEX AND REX:

Boys.

JJ:

Huh?

TEX:

We're the Boy Brothers, Tex and Rex.

JJ:

Well, Rex...

REX:

I'm Rex. He's Tex.

JJ:

Got it. Tex, Rex.

TEX:

Nope. He's Rex. I'm Tex.

(AS ALL THREE DO SAMBA OF "REX?"TEX. TEX. REX. TEX? REX...)

# SCENE 10 (AUDITORIUM)

(JJ ON THE PODIUM IN FRONT OF SCREEN WHICH NOW HAS PICS OF TITO, GRACE, AND THE BOYS BROTHERS ON IT.)

#### JJ:

And that's how I signed up the Boy Brothers, Rex and Tex. Or is it Tex and Rex? No matter. Now my band needed just one thing. A beat. Not a turnip. Not a potato. A beat. Get it? Boom boom?

(CUT TO RAY HOLDING UP A LARGE BEET)

(CUT TO THE AUDIENCE LOOKING AROUND, PUZZLED. ROY HOLDS UP A ?)

#### VOICES:

Vegetables? Groceries? Roots? What? Huh?

(CUT TO: JJ AT THE PODIUM SOLDIERS ON.)

#### JJ:

Not that kind of beet, Roy. When I say beet, I don't mean the ones that I saw in a garden. I mean drum beats, boomboom!

(INTERCUT: IN WINGS, EMCEE PUPPET POINTING AND LAUGHING HYSTERICALLY.)

#### EMCEE:

Beat! Potato! Turnip!
Drum beats, boomboom! You're too much,
Man!

# SCENE 10 (CONT'D)

JJ:

But humorously enough, it was the love of comedy that led to the discovery of our drummer, the girl with the helium hair. The lovely and talented Didi.(PAUSE) Didi! Roy, hit the projector!

(CUT TO: TECKY WINDING UP AND SLUGGING HIS EQUIPMENT.)

(CUT TO: PIC OF DIDI APPEARS ON SCREEN.)

# SCENE 11 (POPCORN MACHINE)

JJ:

I had heard there was a terrific comedian playing at my favorite restaurant ...

(DIDI IS INSIDE ,AS IS MAIZY CORN. DID INTROS MAIZY, THEN SITS AT HER SNARE DRUM AND PROVIDES A RIM SHOT FOR EVERY GAG.)

#### DIDI:

Take your hands outta your pockets and give a big Gourmet Popcorn welcome to Maizy the talking Corn Stalk!

### SFX: POP!!! AND UP POPS MAIZY.

#### MAIZY:

Of course corn stalk. Listen to me ! Lend me your ears. Get it ? Corn? Ears? I know you think that's a corny joke, but you shoulda met my daddy--"Pop"corn. He was in the army. He was a "kernel". But he was always getting creamed. Do you know who my favorite baseball player is? Ty Cobb! HeHeHe now don't try to butter me up! Haw haw. I got me a bushel of 'em. I may be corny, but I'm always in good taste--even at a roast! Awwww, shucks! Thank you!

(MAIZY STEPS BACK AND BOWS. DIDI MOPS MAIZY'S BROW.)

## SCENE 11 (CONT'D)

MAIZY:

Whew. Now for your listening pleasure, it's Didi.

(DIDI PLAYS AND SINGS "A RAILROADER FOR ME")

(SONG ENDS.[PAUSE] JJ ENTERS.)

MAIZY:

So, what do you think? Mister Silvers. Are you going to sign me up?

JJ:

Maizy, your act is outstanding in it's field.

MAIZY:

Really?

JJ:

And that's where I wish you were. Outstanding in a corn field. Aww don't get me wrong. Your act is heating up, it just hasn't popped yet. Let's face it, kid, you're a little raw, and you're still growing. You can't give your audience straight corn anymore, they have to be buttered up first.

(MAIZY RUNS OFF BAWLING.)

JJ:

Call me an old softie, but I just can't stand to see a grown vegetable cry. So, I'll turn my back. But you, little drummer girl, have I got an offer for you...

# SCENE 11 (CONT'D)

DIDI:

For me , Mr.Silvers?

SCENE 12 (CONT'D) (AUDITORIUM)

(PODIUM. JJ NOW STANDS BEFORE A SCREEN FILLED WITH PIC OF ENTIRE BAND.)

JJ:

Needless to say, I lost no time in signing her to a lifetime contract. She'd been playing for popcorn, but I paid her peanuts. And once the band was all together, it wasn't long before we had our first hit: My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean. That's your cue, Roy! said! Hit! Hit!

(ROY CROSSES PODIUM CR TO CL THEN REENTERS CL TO CR DRAGGING A LARGE MALLET.)

(CUT TO: THE AUDIENCE CHEERING WILDLY.)

JJ:

No, Roy! Not that kind of hit!

(ROY HITS THE PODIUM WITH THE MALLET AND JJ AND THE PODIUM TOPPLE OVER.)

SFX: (O.S.) THUMP! AUDIENCE-WHOAH!!

JJ:

Awwww!

SCENE 13 (CUT TO: PUPPET SONG: "MY BONNIE LIES OVER THE OCEAN")

# SCENE 14 (AUDITORIUM)

(EMCEE STRAIGHTENING PODIUM, STANDS WHERE JJ WAS. ON SCREEN BEHIND HIM, JUKE BOX BAND LOGO. O.S. AUDIENCE CHEERS. EMCEE ACTS AS IF IT'S FOR HIM.)

#### EMCEE:

The greatest! The swing-est! My ginchy-est! Yeah! Now, my man JJ is takin' five to calmly talk with his assistant, you dig? But since you all dug that tune so very much, what say do it again and all sing along?

(O.S. AUDIENCE CHEERS.)

(IN THE B.G. ROY RUNS BY FOLLOWED BY A HAMMER WIELDING JJ.)

SCENE 15
(BAND PERFORMS "SINGALONG VERSION"
OF "MY BONNIE".)

SCENE 16 (AUDITORIUM)

(JJ IS BACK.)

JJ:

How well I remember our first big booking. We chose the perfect number to open the show that night...

(VERY DELIBERATE AND SLOW)

And now, Roy if you would be so kind as to turn on the projector? Thank you.

(CUT TO: ROY WITH A FLOURISH, TOUCHES HIS EQUIPMENT.)

SCENE 17 (PUPPET SONG: "ERIE CANAL")

9/21/9

SCENE 18 (AUDITORIUM)

(JJ IS AT PODIUM, SWAYING AND HUMMING TO HIMSELF.)

JJ:

On the ee-why-ee-CANAL!
Oops. Sorry. But I <u>love</u>
that melody...Where was
I?

(INTERCUT: TECKY HOLDING UP SIGN READING "TOUR" PERHAPS WITH A DRAWING OF A TRAIN. ANIMATED MATTE WITH SQUGGLY LINE CONNECTING DIFFERENT TOWNS AND CITIES IN BIZARRE PATTERNS.)

JJ:

Oh, right. Yes, the Juke Box Band and I hit the road.

JJ(V/0):

Went out on tour to see the world - or at least part of it. We Have Band Will Travel. We went mostly by train. Up one side of the country and down the other, playing in all the big name jukeboxes from coast to coast. SCENE 19 (TRAIN EXTERIOR)

(BAND MEMBERS AND JJ ON THE MOVING TRAIN SET.)

JJ(V/0):

Form pillar to post we went, from hither to yon. Played a packed house in yon. You know this great country of ours is crisscrossed not only by a steel rail, but by two steel rails—they ran parallel to each other so trails can run on 'em. What a clever idea. And what fun we had together.

(TRAIN SEQUENCE ENDS WITH TRAIN STOPPED. BAND PUSHES JJ OFF. TRAIN STARTS, LEAVING JJ BEHIND...CABOOSE SHOT WITH JJ RUNNING AFTER THEM.)

# SCENE 20 (AUDITORIUM)

(JJ IN FRONT OF SCREEN WITH TRAVEL GRAPHICS ON IT--MAP? SUITCASES? STICKERS?)

JJ:

We spent so much of our time on trains, the Band started doing railroad songs. Here are three that have always been among your favorites. Roy? Put the picture of the slide on the screen.

## (TO AUDIENCE)

I think he'll get it this time.

(INDEED HE DOES)

(PUPPET SONG: "WABASH CANNONBALL")

(OS APPLAUSE. PUPPET ADLIBS TO SEQUE TO NEXT SONG.)

(PUPPET SONG: "CASEY JONES")

(OS CHEERS)

(PUPPET ADLIBS TO SEQUE TO NEXT SONG.)

(PUPPET SONG: "WORKIN' ON THE RAILROAD")

(OS CHEERS)

SCENE 24 (AUDITORIUM)

(AT PODIUM. VERY EXCITED JJ IN FRONT OF SCREEN WITH FREEZE FRAME OF PUPPET TRAIN GRAPHIC ON IT.)

JJ:

Aren't they the greatest?

(OS CHEERING SWELLS.)

Aren't I the greatest?

(OS CHEERING FADES FAST.)

Would you like to sing along?

(OS CHEERING SWELLS AGAIN.)

All together now. One and two and one...

(PUPPET SONG: " I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE RAILROAD"-SING-ALONG)

SCENE 26 (AUDITORIUM)

JJ:

Wherever I go, people ask me--"JJ, how do you do it? What's the secret of your phenomenal success with the Band?" And I say to them--it's just something you can't put a name to. But let's just call it chemistry.

(ROY MIXES CHEMICALS TOGETHER. THEY EXPLODE. BOOM!)

(CUT TO: AUDIENCE, THROUGH SMOKE.)

SKYLAR:

That was a blast.

HACKETT:

Had to happen, the rest of the show was a bomb!

(THE SMOKE SETS.)

JJ:

Koff! Koff! Let me show you what I mean. Roy, my trusted and valued assistant has taken some home videos of yours truly and the band backstage. Let's listen in, shall we?

# SCENE 27 (DRESSING ROOM SET)

(EVERYONE--TITO, GRACE, DIDI, TEX, AND REX PACKED IN. AT MIRRORS, TUNING UP--THEY ARE GETTING COSTUMED FOR "CAMPTOWN RACES". SCENE HAS A HANDHELD HOME VIDEO LOOK.)

### TITO:

Roy, tell JJ I'm tired of traveling all the time.

GRACE:

Yeah, I'm sick of eating junk food.

DIDI(TO CAMERA):

Roy, can't you tell JJ to book is into some better places?

TEX(TO CAMERA):

Can't you tell JJ to pay us our money?

REX(TO CAMERA):

And Roy while you're at it, ask Tex to stop using my sox.

TEX(TO CAMERA):

Tell Rex he's a low-down devil-dog!

(JJ BURSTS IN FULL OF BEANS.)

JJ:

People. People! It's magic time! I wanna see energy out <u>there</u> on stage tonight...

## SCENE 27 (CONT'D)

DIDI:

JJ, we're sick of all this traveling. We want to settle down. Tell 'im Tito.

TITO:

JJ, the boys and girls aren't happy. Me neither. And we want our money!

GRACE:

Right on Tito, Baby. JJ, where's our bread?

JJ:

I'm afraid I don't understand the reference to baked goods, my dear...

REX:

JJ, I quit.

TEX:

No,  $\underline{I}$  quit. That's no fair, Rex, we agreed I'd quit first.

REX:

Did not.

TEX:

Did too.

GRACE:

This is my last show JJ.

DIDI:

I am outta here!

### SCENE 27 (CONT'D)

(O.S. WE HEAR A GIGANTIC CROWD BEGIN TO STAMP AND CLAP IN RHYTHM...IMPATIENTLY.)

JJ:

Friends, friends-it's show time! Curtain up, light the lights! The roar of the greasepaint--your public awaits. We'll discuss all this later. There's your cue! Magic time! Now go out there and knock 'em dead! Go! Go!

(THE BAND EXITS, INTO THE WAITING ELEVATOR. JJ TURNS TO THE CAMERA.)

JJ:

Those lousy... Hey! That thing isn't on is it?

(CUT TO:)

(BAND IS CRAMMED IN. AS THEY RISE THE CROWD SOUNDS GET LOUDER.)

TITO:

Sounds like a big crowd.

DIDI:

It's not <u>their</u> fault JJ's such a miserly crumbnut.

TEX:

Let's give 'em a good show.

REX:

Let's give 'em Camptown Races.

ALL:

(AD LIB)
All right! Okay. Right
on. Yeah!

(ELEVATOR STOPS, BAND RUSHES OUT--CROWD GOES NUTS.)

(PUPPET SONG: "CAMPTOWN RACES")

# SCENE 29 (AUDITORIUM)

(AT THE PODIUM, JJ ACCEPTS APPLAUSE FROM THE AUDIENCE.)

JJ:

Oh, those artistic temperaments, huh, but did the Band break up and go home? Of course not! Why? Because I found them a permanent gig in the jukebox at Shining Time Station. No more traveling, no more late nights, and no more junk food. The next big break was when we were all on the set for our first video taping. Wanna see it?

### (O.S. AUDIENCE CHEERS.)

JJ:

Okay--here it is! (PAUSE) Roy? Anytime.

(CUT TO:)

(PUPPET SONG: "COMIN' ROUND THE MOUNTAIN)

SCENE 31 (AUDITORIUM)

(JJ AT PODIUM. ON SCREEN BAND LOGO. JJ IS REJOICING IN THE ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE.)

JJ:

Do you love it ?

(CUT TO: ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD)

CROWD:

Yes!

(CUT TO: JJ)

JJ:

Does it make you want to tap your toes and sing along?

(CUT TO: ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD)

CROWD:

Yes!!

(CUT TO: JJ)

JJ:

Am I the greatest manager who ever lived?

(CUT TO: DEAD STIFF CROWD. NO MOVEMENT AT ALL.)

SFX: CRICKETS CHIRPING

JJ:

Well, two outta three ain't bad. Okay everybody. Sing along.

(CUT TO:)

(SINGALONG VERSION OF " COMIN' AROUND THE MOUNTAIN")

# SCENE 33 (AUDITORIUM)

(JJ IS ON THE WALLS, SOBBING. HE RISES, CROAKS, SOBS, COLLAPSES AGAIN. EMCEE RUSHES TO HIM.)

#### EMCEE:

JJ, My Man! C'mon what's buggin' you, baby? Talk to us.

JJ (CHOKED UP):

What I said before, about the band being busy? I lied. They're not busy, they just don't want to be here. They're playing somewhere else, and I'll never work with them again. They hate me.

(CUT TO:)

(GALLERY MEMBERS LOOKING PUZZLED...ROY STARTING UP HIS EQUIPMENT.)

(CUT TO:)

#### EMCEE:

I love ya, baby. Who hates you?

JJ:

The Band! Tito, Grace, Didi. The Boys....They all do.

**EMCEE:** 

The Band hates you?

JJ:

Yes, that's why they're not here today. Not only do they hate me, they don't even <u>like</u> me.

(ROY COMES OVER AND WHISPERS IN EMCEES EAR.)

## SCENE 33 (CONT'D)

EMCEE:

JJ? Roy has a surprise for you. (EMCEE LEADS JJ ON STAGE) Okay, Roy, let 'em in.

(JJ LOOKS AROUND WILDLY. WHAT? EMCEE DANCES WITH GLEE. PAST THE CHEERING AUDIENCE, LED BY ROY COMES THE WHOLE BAND. THEY GATHER AROUND JJ.)

JJ:

People. People! You like me after all!

DIDI:

Sure, JJ. You gave us our start.

TITO:

You found us our home at Shining Time Station.

TEX:

And you finally paid us!

JJ:

There is <u>audience</u> here. It goes to show what they always say: there's no business like show business. Hit it, Tito!

(PUPPET SONG: " NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS")

SCENE 35 (AUDITORIUM)

(AUDIENCE CHEERING WILDLY)

VOICES:

Encore! More! Bis! Again!

(CUT TO: PODIUM, BAND WAVING BESIDE TECKY, EMCEE, AND JJ.)

#### EMCEE:

The GROOVE-iest! JJ Silver and the Juke Box Band! Men? Ladies? Hats? Cats? I gotta feeling the folks here would dig a chance to hear that swingin' ditty again. May we?

JJ:

Are you kidding, Mister F.? My people are professionals. How much?

**GRACE:** 

JJ? You are too much!

DIDI:

We're going to play for free, JJ. for you!

TITO:

One. Two. One, two, three...

(BAND DOES REPRISE OF SONG... EMCEE, TECKY, AND AUDIENCE JOIN AS BALLOONS AND CONFETTI FALL. JJ IS RAISED ON SHOULDERS AT FINALE...)

(FREEZE AND)

(OVER CREDITS ANCHOR MAN REAPPEARS.)

### SCENE 35 (CONT'D)

ANCHOR MAN:

We hope you enjoyed our tribute to JJ Silvers as much as we enjoyed tributing it to you. If you want to relive any of these happy moments, just rewind the tape, and play it again.

(JJ SILVERS ENTERS.)

JJ:

You'll be glad you did--and so will I!

(FADE TO BLACK)

Puppet Script 1
Page 52 Toronto draft 9/21/9